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### Minutes of the 894th US Provincial Council Meeting August 13-14, 2019, Hales Corners, Wisconsin

PRESENT: Fr. Ed Kilianski, provincial superior; Fr. Quang Nguyen, Fr. Jack Kurps, Fr. Christianus Hendrik, Fr. Vien Nguyen and Br. Andy Gancarczyk, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, provincial treasurer; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; Mary Gorski, recording secretary. Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS, was present for discussion of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology; Fr. Joseph-Thien Dinh and Fr. Duy Nguyen were present for a discussion about formation.

I. Extended prayer — Fr. Kilianski, councilors, Dn. Nagel and Br. Presto spent the first morning of the meeting in extended prayer and sharing. Br. Gancarczyk organized the morning.

II. Administration

A. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology — Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS, SHSST president-rector, updated the council on the seminary. Orientation for students begins this week; there are 17 new students from St. Francis Seminary. There was a schedule conflict with St. Francis, so its seminarians are doing orientation a week prior to the rest of the school. The conflict is expected to be resolved next year so orientation can be done with all new students at the same time.

Benjamin Stone has been hired as Director of Music and as organist. He will work part-time during the fall semester while completing his dissertation for his Doctor of Music through the University of Notre Dame. It is anticipated that he will work full-time at the seminary as of the spring semester. Retired SHSST liturgist, Christian Rich, will be among those playing the organ when Mr. Stone is unavailable.

Five representatives from SHSST staffed a booth at the recent CMSM national conference. Several significant contacts were made; the Servants of the Paraclete anticipate sending one of their seminarians to SHSST starting in January. There were many inquiries about the enculturation programs, as well as programs for returning missionaries and international students.

During the fall semester, students and staff will be invited to gather in the main chapel Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 11:45 am for the Angelus. The seminary also plans to schedule Adoration at 8:00 p.m. on Sundays. Fr. Gómez said that this is a part of the seminary's efforts to "envelope the community in prayer."

There has been talk of having a Mass at the seminary on Sundays (currently, seminarians generally go to parishes or other places for Sunday worship). Fr. Gómez said that the seminary community would welcome a Sunday Mass if the SCJ community would take responsibility for it. Seminarians would still be required to do parish ministry on Sundays, but perhaps once a month they could go to Sunday Mass at SHSST. This will be discussed with the SCJ formation team and the SHM community.

There will be a meeting of bishops at SHSST, September 24-26. Hosted by Bishop Robert Coerver of the diocese of Lubbock, it is billed as a time of "Collegial Sharing Among Brother Bishops." So far, nine bishops are scheduled to take part, including Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States. There will be a Mass on Wednesday, September 25, at 4:30 p.m.; the archbishop will be among the concelebrants. All seminarians will be expected to be at the Mass; the bishops will dine together after. Fr. Charles Brown has asked about having an icon that he is creating be blessed at the Mass.

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**U.S. Province  
Priests of the  
Sacred Heart**

P.O. Box 289  
Hales Corners, WI  
53130-0289  
[www.dehoniansusa.org](http://www.dehoniansusa.org)

414-425-6910

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The Province Development Office suggested that a holy card be created for the Mass with a picture of the icon. Fr. Gómez proposed that since a holy card is already being done for the rector's installation shortly before the bishops' meeting, that the holy card with the icon be done for the Advent Concert.

The annual Advent Concert will be held on December 8 and will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Berghaus organ; the Bach Chamber Choir will perform at the concert. The concert will be open to the public.

Fr. Gómez said that the seminary is reviewing its safety protocols; security services will be hired for several public events including the bishops' meeting and the Advent concert. This will have to be a budget item in the future.

Eight students from St. Francis and three other seminarians are eligible to receive the ministry of acolyte in fall. It has not yet been determined whether this will be done in a single ceremony or one at St. Francis and one at SHSST.

Councilors and Fr. Gómez discussed the psychological reports required as a part of the SHSST admissions process. Because Sacred Heart is a seminary, it is required by the PPF to have a psychological report on each seminarian. All candidates for the Priests of the Sacred Heart have extensive psychological testing as a part of their application process. The question is whether a summary of this report will be sufficient for SHSST requirements and who would have access to the report. Fr. Gómez said that such a report is a vital part of the admissions process for the seminary so that there is an understanding of a student's needs, issues, strengths and weaknesses. St. Francis seminarians give a summary that is reviewed by Dr. John Olesnavage, a psychologist, who is vice president for Pastoral Formation and director of Human Formation. These reports can be accessed by other SHSST personnel on an as-needed basis. Fr. Kilianski asked that due to conflict of interest concerns that SCJs not review the psychological report of an SCJ candidate or professed seminarian. Fr. Gómez said that he would ensure that this procedure is followed. In the future, the province formation program will follow the same procedures as St. Francis and submit a summary psychological report. Fr. Gómez will investigate whether SCJ seminarians already admitted need to submit a report or if they can be "grandfathered."

Regarding international students, it was noted that psychological testing is not a part of the admissions process in all countries. Fr. Gómez will speak to Fr. Francis Vu Tran, district superior of Vietnam, to determine how the psychological report requirements can be met for his students. It was noted that this is only a requirement of M.Div. students, not MA students.

#### B. Personnel

1. Br. Megha Bandanadham — Br. Bandanadham was given permission by Fr. Carlos Luis Suarez Codorniú, superior general, to do his final vows program in the United States while he completes his studies at SHSST. Br. Ray Kozuch is his final vows director.
2. Fr. Paul Grizzelle-Reid — During the past year, Fr. Kilianski has repeatedly attempted to normalize Fr. Grizzelle-Reid's relationship to the community. This includes material goods — items, including a house, that are in his private possession — as well as his presence and participation as a member of his local religious community. As of May 13, Fr. Grizzelle-Reid has been living outside of the community without permission. Dialogue between Fr. Grizzelle-Reid and Fr. Kilianski has fully broken down. Fr. Grizzelle-Reid has not responded to letters, electronic communication or phone messages from Fr. Kilianski.

The council endorsed Fr. Kilianski's proposal to petition the general superior for facultative dismissal of Fr. Grizzelle-Reid. Voting individually on each of the following statements, the council agreed that:

- a. The situation warrants dismissal.
  - b. Fr. Kilianski provided Fr. Paul Grizzelle-Reid with sufficient warning that this petition could happen.
  - c. Fr. Paul Grizzelle-Reid did not respond sufficiently to prior communications to avoid dismissal.
  - d. And finally, having reviewed the petition, the members of the council concur with it.
3. Fr. Bob Naglich — Fr. Naglich is in kidney failure and requires dialysis three times a week; he has moved further up the transplant wait list.
  4. Frater Long Nguyen — Fra. L. Nguyen has returned from his Spanish-immersion program in Guatemala.
  5. Fr. Hendrik Ardianto — Br. Presto anticipates soon having all the documents in place to apply for Fr. Ardianto's R-1 visa.

6. Fr. Rafael Querobin — Fr. Querobin has requested another semester of English study and preparation before being considered for ministry. He will continue with the ECS program at SHSST. He is to visit with the Mississippi community next week to learn about ministry there, and the Houston community in the fall.

C. Formation — Frs. Joseph Dinh and Duy Nguyen, co-directors of the province formation program, met with the council to talk about the upcoming school year. The formation team is preparing a list of potential spiritual directors for the students that may be expanded to include retired religious from outside of SHSST and the Priests of the Sacred Heart, including several Jesuits. Frs. D. Nguyen and Dinh noted the importance of good communication between the various entities within SHM and with SHSST, especially in regard to schedules. “Presence” is vital in the formation program; the formation directors will emphasize the expectation that students be present at prayer and other community gatherings. While strengthening the sense of Dehonian identity in the formation program, there will also be an effort to more fully integrate the program into the life of SHSST.

Frs. Duy and Joseph spoke about plans that they have for community building, including Saturday Mass followed by breakfast. The formation team is also looking at ways to create a sense of progression for students so that there are different expectations and privileges at each stage of formation. Periodically, there will be separate meetings with the professed and non-professed students. During certain meals, the formation community will be asked to sit together (instead of mixing with the rest of the Sacred Heart Monastery Community).

During his visit with the council, Fr. Gómez talked about the possibility of having Mass at the seminary on Sundays. If this were to happen, he asks that the SCJ community take responsibility for it. The formation team needs to review expectations for Sunday Mass. Do the formators envision their students going to parishes? Would in-house Sunday Masses be an exception or a regular community event? There is much benefit in having the students go to parishes to experience different liturgies on Sundays, but also benefit in being together as a community. And while the students are always welcome for Mass at SHML, it was suggested that this not be a regular option. Councilors would rather see the students visit parishes on Sundays or have Mass together with the SHM community.

There was a brief discussion about cars. Currently the formation program has five cars. The formators will discuss whether this will be enough. The council would like students to carpool as much as possible but there is also the realization that sometimes this is not possible.

Formators and SHM leadership are unsure of the number of international students to expect for the fall semester; several students are waiting on visas. Fr. D. Nguyen asked about the language requirement of international students; students in formation for the US Province are expected to learn Spanish. Should this also be a requirement of international students? The formators were advised to talk to the superiors of the entities from which the students come to finalize expectations. While an international student is in the US Province he is under the authority of his local superior and formators, as well as the US provincial superior. However, the two entities should be in good dialogue with each other.

Regarding international students who are still learning English, it was suggested that they initially have a light academic load, though still be mindful of the number of credits required by their student visa.

How often can an international student go home for vacation? Fr. Kilianski said that in most cases, the students come to the United States with the understanding that they will not go back to their home country until their studies are complete. Generally, student visas are valid for the duration of a student’s study program, though such policies are subject to change.

Frs. D. Nguyen and Dinh were thanked by the council for their service to the province.

D. Consultations for local leadership — Consultations for local leadership begin next week. Fr. Kilianski will do the consultation of the Sacred Heart Community at SHML on August 20; Fr. Q. Nguyen will do the consultation in Mississippi, August 23-25; Fr. Kurps is in the process of arranging the date for the Houston consultation.

Each community needs to be consulted in regard to the local superior, local treasurer and house council. Results of the consultation are not shared publicly; the consultation is advisory to the provincial superior, who makes the final decision regarding local leadership.

E. New ministry — A group of SCJs interested in young adult ministry (for those approximately 18-35 years old) plan to meet in September to talk about possibilities. The group includes Br. Diego Diaz, Fr. Juan Carlos Castañeda Rojas, Frater Henry

Nguyen and Br. Duane Lemke.

- F. 2016 response to General Plan — In 2016, the general administration (Bishop Heiner Wilmer was then superior general) asked each entity to create “a long-term plan that can be initiated in your entity from now until the next General Chapter in 2021.” Although the general administration unexpectedly changed after the request was made, the Provincial Council thought it appropriate to revisit its response, created in September, 2016.

Within the next few days, members of the US Province will receive a copy of that response via e-mail. SCJs will be invited to give feedback on the plan individually and/or as a local community. During their meeting, councilors identified several aspects of the plan that are in process, as well as areas of priority. However, before discussing it further, the council would like to hear from the membership. What do members of the province see as priorities? What has the province been doing well in response to the plan? What areas require more attention? Are there topics that are no longer appropriate to the current reality of the province? Are there topics that require the council’s attention that should be added?

SCJs will have until September 30 to respond. All responses are to go to Fr. Kilianski; details will be in the mailing. Local superiors will be asked to ensure that all members of their community receive the mailing, especially those who do not use email.

### III. Finance

- A. Computer requests — There have been requests by international students for assistance in purchasing personal computers. For a variety of reasons, the province will generally say no to these requests.
- B. Remodel of Building B of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology / SHM — The council voted to approve plans for the next phase of remodeling for a total cost of just under \$5 million. This phase will create 28 new student rooms with private baths, one suite and the rector’s suite, all in Building B, as well as five updated classrooms and extended fire abatement systems. There will be six offices for use by SHM, including formation personnel, on the third floor.

Fourteen of the current student rooms will not be remodeled; they will be held in reserve for summer student overflow. These can also be used to temporarily house students during the renovation. If needed, classroom space can be rented at St. Martin of Tours while classrooms are under construction.

It is hoped that work can begin next May so that most of the significant (loud) work can be done in-between school sessions so that it is less disruptive.

Funding will most likely be done through a loan from the SHSST endowment fund. The province will repay the loan at 4.2% interest over 15 years. The loan will be considered an alternative investment by the seminary. There is approximately \$11 million in the endowment.

Dn. Nagel will meet with Fr. Gómez to discuss the financing.

- C. Province Development Office — New software is in operation at the Province Development Office. Donor mail is now opened and read at St. Joseph’s Indian School. Information from the mail is uploaded to files accessible by the Province Development Office so that the development office can do thank-you letters, phone calls and fulfilment. The Province Development Office has reorganized to focus more on personal care of donors. As a result of the reorganization, with some tasks being moved to St. Joseph’s, two members of the Province Development Office staff were let go. Each received a severance package. The reorganization has significantly cut costs at the Province Development Office, though during the transition, income has stagnated. However, it is important to note that while there are fewer individual donors, those who do give do so at a significant amount. The mid-range donor list has grown, with over 60,000 donors giving an average gift of \$34. Currently, the cost to raise a dollar is 56 cents.

This is a time of transition in Catholic fundraising. The number of people who respond to devotional items is diminishing. Younger people generally prefer to give to social concerns. It is important to select the correct mailings for each group so that neither is inundated with unwelcome mailings.

- D. Annual meeting of the Board of Directors — During the annual corporate meeting of the Board of Directors of the US Province of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart the following items were addressed:

1. Officers — The following officers were elected:  
President: Fr. Edward Kilianski, SCJ  
Vice-President: Fr. Quang Nguyen, SCJ  
Treasurer: Dn. David Nagel, SCJ  
Secretary: Br. Frank Presto, SCJ

2. Corporate resolution — The following resolution was endorsed:

Be It Resolved, that the Priests of the Sacred Heart, a Wisconsin religious corporation, hereby authorizes Dn. David Nagel, SCJ, Corporate Treasurer, to execute any and all documents on behalf of the corporation in connection with corporate financial matters, including but not limited to, applications, authorizations, agreements, purchases, account transaction and stock transactions.

- E. Farmland sale — In spring, Ken Servi, a local developer, made an offer to buy farmland owned by the province in Franklin. After consulting with the province attorney, Dn. Nagel suggested that it was not within the best interests of the province to divide the property at that time. The developer made a new offer for the five-acre parcel: \$80,000, plus he will cover all costs related to the sale. He would also ensure that the province would have access if it desired. The land is to be used as greenspace next to a residential development. Because of wetland concerns and other issues, very little could be developed on the property. Most likely, its value will remain stagnant.

The council voted to approve the sale of the land. The sale is contingent upon the City of Franklin's approval of the housing development on the land the buyer owns adjacent to the property.

- F. Driver's tests — Driver's tests are scheduled in Hales Corners, September 9-13. The province driving policy states that all SCJs over 75 must undergo a driver's test every two years; those whose driving might be impaired due to health conditions will also be asked to be tested.

If a person fails his driver's test he can appeal. Generally, the person would be required to take a driver's safety course and then re-take the test. At least one SCJ has had his license reinstated after doing this. Christian Brothers Risk Management provides the testing service. It was noted that driving tests need to be arranged for those outside of the Milwaukee area.

- G. Request from the Chilean Province — Earlier this year the Chilean Province requested assistance in raising funds to purchase a house for the province's formation program. Fr. V. Nguyen offered to investigate possibilities of organizations in the United States to which the Chilean Province might apply for a grant. Fr. V. Nguyen hoped to receive suggestions from the Catholic Extension Society but instead received a notice that the organization does not offer assistance outside of the United States. In the meantime, Dn. Nagel learned that the general administration wanted to get more information about the project before it moves forward. Fr. Luca Zottoli, general treasurer, is scheduled to visit the Chilean Province in the next few weeks.

- IV. Future agenda items — The following were suggested for upcoming council meeting agendas: 1) North American retreats (should planning begin for another series?), 2) Young adult ministry, 3) 2016 response to the general plan, including the input of the membership.

- V. Conference call — The council will next meet by conference call 10:30 a.m. (Central) on Tuesday, August 20.

## CALENDAR

- October 13-14, 2019: Mission Education (South Dakota)  
October 22-23, 2019: Provincial Council meeting  
November 8-9, 2019: International Conference on Sacred Heart Devotion (Rome)  
November 13, 2019: Dehon Lecture (SHSST)  
December 17-18, 2019: Provincial Council meeting
- January 7-9, 2020: Provincial Assembly, "Our Future Together in Community and Ministry, Part III"  
January 21-22, 2020: Provincial Council meeting

## UPDATES

### **Fr. Duy Nguyen, SCJ**

Phone (CELL): 773-749-5293

### **Thien Nguyen, Thuan Nguyen, Truc Van Tran and Hung Pham (novices)**

Sacred Heart Novitiate  
8409 3 Mile Rd  
Franksville, WI 53126

### **Fraters John Huan Nguyen and Hubert Senam Kodjovi Liassidji (newly professed)**

Sacred Heart Monastery  
P.O. Box 566  
Hales Corners, WI 53130

### **Fr. Quang Nguyen**

New personal email: quangscj@yahoo.com  
Vocation email: frquangscj@wi.twcbc.com

The online North American personnel directory is generally updated as soon as we receive new information; the directory is password-protected and available in the Members area of the US Province website ([www.dehoniansusa.org](http://www.dehoniansusa.org)). Contact information for SCJs and students in the US and Canada is included.

At the top of the directory web page are links to download a PDF of the printed directory. There are two options: a high resolution PDF (approximately 14 MB) that is appropriate for printing, and a low resolution (1.5 MB) that can be used on computers, tablets, smart phones and other devices. If you click on the image of the directory at the top of the directory web page, you will get the low resolution image. Links to other options are below it in red.

A new hard copy of the directory is scheduled to be printed at the start of October.